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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, make us instruments of Your love. Use our Senators today as ambassadors of reconciliation. Direct them in their work, and surround them with Your gracious favor. Let all their plans and purposes be in accordance with Your holy will. May their primary aim be to serve You and country with faithfulness. Enlighten them by Your holy spirit so they will find solutions to the problems that challenge our world.

Lord, make them good stewards of their calling, guiding them to use their influence for Your glory. Inspire their minds, assist their wills, and strengthen their hands that they may not falter or fail. And when this day's work is done, give them refreshment of mind, spirit, and body.

We pray in Your gracious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JON TESTER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 2, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. TESTER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today each side will have a half hour in morning business. The Republicans have the first half, the Democrats the final half. Following that, the Senate will begin consideration of one of the most important bills we do here every year; that is, the Defense appropriations bill. That will be led by Senators INOUE and STEVENS. The Senate will recess today from 12:30 to 2:15 for the regularly scheduled party conference meetings. We want to finish this bill as quickly as possible and move to Commerce-State-Justice, which is also important, dealing with law enforcement. We also have some judges we would like to get rid of this week, if at all possible. We have a circuit court judge and a number of district court judges. We need to finish these items this week so that we can come back and start the Labor-HHS appropriations bill, which is extremely important. If we finish these two bills, we would have half of them done this year, which is good.

We have received tremendous cooperation from both sides to move through the bills. I hope we can continue to get that cooperation on this

bill. I am confident there will be some amendments offered. Some of them will have points of order against them because of too much money and they are legislating on appropriations bills. Maybe those Senators won't offer them if they check with the Parliamentarian first. But we hope we can move through this bill very quickly.

Mr. McCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

BURMA

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the British statesman Edmund Burke once wrote: "When bad men combine, the good must associate." Such vivid moral clarity is nowhere better reflected than in the recent events involving Burma.

In Burma, we have indeed witnessed the combination of bad men—a combination of corrupt military junta leaders and compliant thugs in the Burmese security forces.

This combination recently carried out the brutal suppression of peaceful protests in Burma, killing and imprisoning untold numbers of nonviolent demonstrators, including scores of Buddhist monks.

What is now needed is for the good to associate.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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